favourable impact on the aggregate savings.

Survey of inflation forecast for 1995-96

2007. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen a news-item in the 'Indian Express' dated the 26th July, 1995 captioned "Decline in inflation rate may be short-lived" and according to survey of inflation forecast for 1995-96 reported by 'Business Today', inflation rate could turn out to be 1.5-3.4 per cent higher than the Government's implicit Projection of 8.3 per cent;

(b) whether it is a fact that the index for foodgrains articles have slightly declined but prices of essential commodities are increasing without any check; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to bring down the prices of items of mass consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the forecast of inflation rate above 8.3 per cent is author's own estimate.

(b) and (c) The Wholesale Price Index both for foodgrains and essential commodities as on July 29 in the current financial year recorded a lower rise compared to the rise on the corresponding date last year. Food, articles registered a rise of 5.2 per cent as against the rise of 15.3 per cent last year. Wholesale price of essential commodities rose by 5.5 per cent during current financial year in comparison to the rise of 8.4 per cent last year.

Government remains vigilant and has taken a number of steps to moderate the prices of essential commodities. These are:—

(i) Continuation of FCI's open market sale of rice and wheat through current fiscal year to check market price.

(ii) allowing import of edible oils (except coconut oil) under OGL at a reduced duty of 30 per cent.

(iii) importing 1.5 lakh tonnes of palmolein at concessional duty of 20 per cent for supply through PDS.

(iv) continuing OGL import policy for sugar and allowing imports for augmenting PDS stocks.

(v) increase by 5 per cent the levy sugai allocation for PDS.

(vi) import of pulses under OGL with duty reduced to 5 per cent.

(vii) stock limits for imported essential products waived.

(viii) adjustment in trade and tariff policies in the current financial year to ensure stability in the prices of industrial products. Substantial reduction in excise duties on a number of items is expected to accelerate industrial growth.

(ix) aiming for reduced deficit to 5.6 per cent of GDP as against 6.7 per cent (Revised Estimates) in the last financial year.

(x) moderating the growth of money supply.

प्रचार माध्यमों को चुस्त बनाने हेतु विदेशी प्रस्ताव

2008. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगें कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को प्रचार माध्यमों के संचालन को चुस्त बनाने हेतु विदेशी प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वे प्रस्ताव किस प्रकार के हैं;

(ग) इनके संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया हैं और क्या कुछ प्रस्तावों को पारस्पारिक आधार पर अंतिम रूप दिया जा रहा हैं; और

(घ) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान दिल्ली दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी के लिए हमारी विदेशी